**Survey of child labour**

4542. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are conducting a survey to identify the exact number of child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the survey would be completed within four months;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the estimated number of child labourers in the country was more than 10 crore, if so, the steps being taken to rehabilitate them; and

(e) whether according to the Central Advisory Board on Child Labour, the Board, with the help of State Governments and NGOs, had rehabilitated 1,26,66,377 child labourers in 250 districts in 21 States of the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to conduct a survey over all the country to assess the number of child labour in the country.

(b) and (c) Government is taking all measures to complete the survey as early as possible.

(d) and (e) Decennial Census conducted by the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner is the most authentic source of information on the number of working children in the country. As per the 2001 Census, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore.

The Central Advisory Board on Child Labour is a tripartite committee in nature. The main function of the Board is to advise the Government on policy issues related to child labour. The Government is implementing the National Child Labour Projects Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States for the rehabilitation of childen withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are provided with education, nutrition, stipend, vocational training and healthcare etc. and are finally mainstreamed to regular education system. So far, 3.92 lakh children have been mainstreamed into formal education system.